

## Auld Lang Syne January 2

The following item comes from W.P. Meyer (NFI) from the T5 organization (Information Resources Management), who began work at NSA in 1958 (making him an old timer apparently). It was originally published on page 17 of the November 1982 issue of the Agency periodical *Cryptolog*\* and is too good to pass up. The CCH won't vouch for the overall historical accuracy, particularly the rumors, but the first and last bullets we know to be true.

### An Old Timer Is One Who ...

- \*\* Remembers when there were two Marine guards at the escalator in the middle of the Operations Building, one at the bottom of the stairs and one at the top.

- \*\* Remembers when the Headquarters Building was being built (rumors said it was going to be reserved for all of the M organization).

- \*\* Remembers the rumor that NSA was going to be split in half, one half going to California and other to North Carolina, i.e., NSA West and East respectively.

- \*\* Remembers when the copying machine used tulip-imprinted paper so you could tell the reproduction sheet from the original copy.

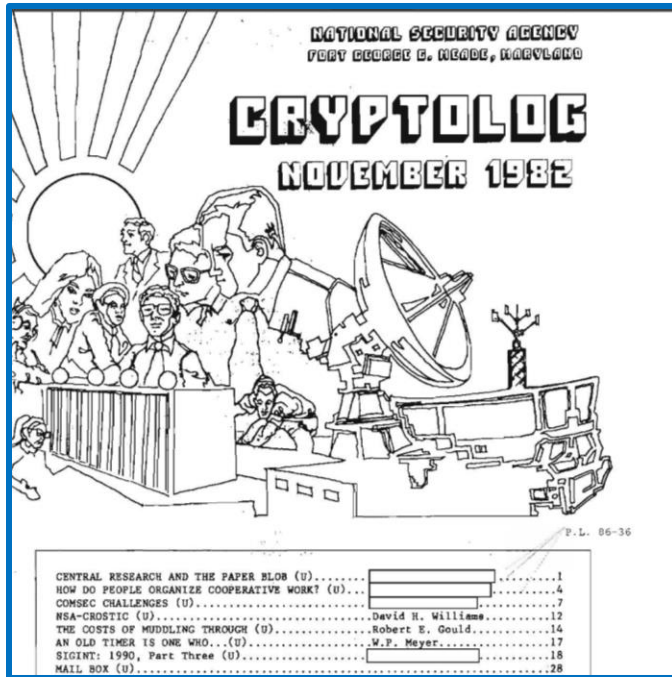
- \*\* Remembers that when the IRC (Information Research Center) building was built it was not intended for human occupancy. It was originally called the SMSB (Sensitive Materials Storage Building). When the heat and humidity reached a certain point, everyone was excused to leave. Of course, if you were in a carpool with people from the Operations Building, you couldn't leave to go home anyway.

- \*\* Remembers when a bored Marine climbed the microwave tower in front of the IRC building one night and hoisted a Nazi flag—and it took the Post engineers a week to take it down.

- \*\* Remembers when the old CREF (Central Reference) moved to the IRC building and no one used the library again. Every office began to build up its own collection of books. Information is so fragmented now that no one knows where anything is anymore.

- \*\* Remembers when R wanted to build its own building near College Park and establish its own collection of books. Here is it 20 years later and it has its own buildings, only they are called FANX II and FANX III and the library is called the FANX Library.

\*\* Remembers when NSA had no flagpole in front of the Operations Building. When Admiral Frost (DIRSNA Laurence Frost, 1960-1962) arrived, he stated that NSA was a ship and he needed to fly his personal flag so that the public would know that he was aboard.



\* *Cryptolog*, published at NSA from 1974-1997, was the pre-computer equivalent of a blog or bulletin board. It contained short articles on mission-related issues, factoids, humorous anecdotes from Agency work, and announcements of upcoming events. Many articles were rejoinders or amplifications to previous writings, giving the journal a blog-like character, despite the long lag between the original and the response.

AN HISTORIC & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OLD-TIMERS AND NEWCOMERS ALIKE!

508 caption: The cover of the November 1982 *Cryptolog*; the top two-thirds has a line drawing of the artwork from the wall mosaic in the Headquarters building lobby; below this is the table of contents. Some author's names are blanked out, since this graphic was taken from the version of the journal that was declassified and put on [www.nsa.gov](http://www.nsa.gov).